

Title: [Theth Classification, or What Do We Even Consider to Be a Theth Word](#)

Author: [guntas68](#)

Date: Thu Dec 14 06:56:13 2023 UTC

Sub-reddit: r/ThethPunjabi

Post:

This is from a comment that I made to a question asked if suraj is a theth word. My text is down below. This is a basic concept I have made for what theth is. This is nothing serious and just a little fun project. This is nowhere near that thought out and probably has a lot of deficiencies hahaha. Let me know what you guys think, and how you would improve it.

Certainly! I will answer this question and then tell you if I think the word "Suraj" is theth. In order to do that, I am gonna have to fully, and in detail, explain what I consider to be theth. I am going to break theth down into my own categories. You can feel free to argue with any of these categories you like, however, they are my own rendering of what it means for a word to be "theth". We must first start by asking a simple question: what does it mean for a language to be theth?

The word "TheTH (ਠੇਠ / تھيٲٲ)" in Punjabi means "pure". This is remarkably unhelpful in classifying what it means when it is used to describe a language. This has led to different conceptions of what a pure language means, each with different implications.

Starting off with the strictest of definitions, pure can be said for a language whose vocabulary does not contain any loanwords. For Punjabi, this would mean a language that only has vocabulary from the native Prakrits in the Punjab region. These words would have been naturally developed, and modified, over the years. Let us call this form of theth Strict Theth.

Strict Theth, by definition, would not include any loanwords. This applies for any Persian/Arabic/Sanskrit/Portuguese/English words. We run into a problem right away. It is really, really hard to express anything in Punjabi without loanwords. I mean, how would you say "life" in Punjabi then? You can't say "zindagi" as it is a loan from Persian. You can't say "hayaatii" as it is from Arabic. You can't say "jeevan" as it is a loan from Sanskrit. By using this definition of theth, we have crippled the vocabulary of Punjabi, leaving great gaps that need to be filled. The word that may have been used for life natively has since been lost to time. Only the loans remain, which have taken its place.

Under the Strict Theth definition, "suraj" would not be considered theth. This is not a satisfactory definition. We want the theth version to have words that can express any concept we need to. This brings us to the next version of theth, Semi Strict Theth.

The definition of Semi Strict Theth would be a superset of the previous definition, along with some additional words. These additional words would include historic loanwords that were developed naturally into the language, introduced not by learned borrowings. Rather, they were introduced orally through speakers of different languages. I keep using the word natural so let me explain what that means. I consider a word to be loaned naturally if the word used from some other source and spread orally to the native population. This natural process has certain characteristics. One of these being that the foreign word usually undergoes some change in the pronunciation of it from the source. Two, this word would not be taught through institutions. Under this definition, we can include words like *zindagi* and *hayaatii* back into the mix of "theth" Punjabi words. The word *jeevan* would still be considered a "learned borrowing" and thus would not qualify as theth under the Semi Strict Theth definition.

There is quite a need for these loanwords. Punjabi came into being in four different phases, with it being agreed that Punjabi developed from the previous Apabhraṃśhas (Prakrit) around the 11th century [1]. The advent of foreign invasions into Punjab, and eventually into most of the subcontinent, began around the 11th century too. This is all to say that we cannot speak of Punjabi as a language that was devoid of any foreign influence. The language itself came into being during the time when foreign words would have started to enter the language. You cannot reasonably separate the two. This is why Gurbani has some foreign loanwords in it too. It should be noted that while Punjabi incorporated many loanwords during this time, it retained the original pronunciation for a while until the period of English rule [1]. It was only around this time when foreign sounds started to be pronounced by the populace. It started with sh and z, and then spread to f, and then to g'h and k'h. There may be an argument to be made about a theth Punjabi language that retains these loanwords, but doesn't pronounce them the original way; rather, opting to instead use the original pronunciation. S for sh, j for z, ph for f. This a matter for a separate time.

Before we head into the next category, I think it is important to discuss the extent of a word as well. Some words are widespread all over Punjab. A great example of this would be the word "tatta (ਤੱਤਾ / تتا). Others are dialectal, e.g. *Hadvaana* (ਹਦਵਾਨਾ / بدوانا) vs *tarbooz* (ਤਰਬੂਜ / تربوز) vs *mateera* (ਮਤੀਰਾ / متيرا). Some dialectal words may even not be recognized by other dialects; however, this does not make them any less of Punjabi words. We must now have two separate theth sets. Dialect-specific Theth and Dialect-neutral Theth. The former set would contain words that are theth specific to that dialect only. The latter would contain words that are theth across all dialects of Punjabi, and not

dialect specific ones . We can combine these sets and derive a third one, Language-level Theth. This would include all dialectal and dialect-neutral theth words.

Now getting back to before. Many people would be content with the Semi Strict Theth definition. It includes many common words, and still retains the theth quality of the language. There is still one little nuisance we must deal with: Learned Borrowings. What should we do of them? The immediate response would be to toss them aside. After all, a learned borrowings cannot be part of the natural vocabulary of the language. This is a valid argument. However, what if learned borrowings that occurred long ago became common enough to where people used them on a daily basis? Would these words be considered then theth? This is where it really starts to break down into personal preference. For those that would consider these words to be theth, we get into the last category of theth, Lax Theth.

Under Lax Theth, learned borrowings that occurred long ago, and are common among speech, would be considered to be theth. Now, we must be careful of not using this statement across all dialects. The previous set terms we made come in use here. A theth word may be dialect-specific, or multiple dialect-specific, and therefore would not be considered theth to the other dialects. Keeping this in mind, we can define Lax Theth to be a superset of the Semi Strict Theth and also include historic learned burrowings that have become widely used in common speech in at least one dialect. We are at the limits of what is considered theth, and we are stretching the definition considerably. Under this definition, the word jeevan and janam would be considered theth.

Conclusion:

So to recap, we have 3 different theth definitions. We have Strict Theth, Semi Strict Theth, and Lax Theth. We also have different sets for the frequency of use. We have dialect-specific and dialect-neutral. We also have a set to combine these two frequencies, language-level.

So to answer your question, yes, Suraj would be considered theth...under the Lax Theth definition. Under the Strict Theth and Semi Strict Theth definitions, it would not be considered theth. As for the frequency of use, it is dialect-neutral, and therefore, language-level as it used in every dialect.

TL;DR

So to really answer your question, suraj would be considered to be Dialect-neutral Lax Theth.

Everything I wrote here is just a prototype I have been thinking about for a while. There may be some deficiencies which I may plan on fixing and making it a seperate post :)

<https://eos.learnpunjabi.org/PUNJABI.html> [1]

Comments:

[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 4 points 1 year ago

Good write!

I will respond to this.

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[\[-\]Round-Benefit2022](#) 3 points 1 year ago

The theth word for Suraj is soor(also meaning pig)

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 4 points 1 year ago

We use a more widely used word in Lehnda Punjab that is ਦੋਹ

It also means day..

Denh charhya/lattha

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 3 points 1 year ago*

This can be seen in Eastern Punjabi too! Although very rarely. This word has a similar word also used in Gurbani (I think with a different form of ਦਿਹ and its derivatives), so many Sikhs on the Eastern side might recognize this word.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Theth word on Southern and Central Punjabi dialects (West) for Day is "De'nhh"

We use this at home.

ChiTTay-Dey'nh (Broad daylight) [see my post on Passives, I gave this with a song example "ChiTTay denh tey kyo'n luTeenday?")

A famous song from Jhang "Hik dei'n hosi mera daava ae, sarkaaraa'n nu mein yaad aasaa'n" (Ikk din hoega)

Deyhaa'n-Raatee'n (All day all night)

In Pothohari, Dhanni, Northern Shahpuri

Day is "DihaaRaa" and in day is DihaaRay/DihaaRee'n

-

Dey'nh also means son, and although Pothoharis and Northerners use DihaaRaa for day, they still use Dey'nhh for sun, you can find in dictionaries

It is common. But "sooraj" is just as fine.

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[\[-\]IIIICardiologist3690](#) East Punjab | ਚੜ੍ਹਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ | چڑھدا پنجاب 2 points 1 year ago

Chitte diN chobar charhonde chann ni

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Aaho ooha lafz (ohi)

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[\[-\]\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Yeah this is the word used in gurbani

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Interesting. This is the first time I am hearing this word to mean Suraj as well. I was only able to find this word in a few dictionaries, and it was absent in Iqbal's dictionary. This indicates to me that it is a dialectal or less common word. It sounds theth however! This would be a dialect-specific strict theth? (I don't know if this word is only in certain dialects or if its used widely).

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago*

This friend uses very "odd" words that are never used or heard of and calls them theth.

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 3 points 1 year ago

To be fair to them, I have seen it attested in Punjabi Pedia from different sources. I have not found this word in Hindi/Urdu. It is most likely an Eastern Punjabi dialectical word. In their dialect, it would be considered theth.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Indeed I am not ruling anything out.

However, there should still be usage examples available.

Otherwise we'd just be hunting words out of dictionaries and say "Aha, found a Thethy!" :)

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It is very obvious that it is a dialectical word. In Majha dialect J becomes Y, and Y at end becomes silent. Sooraj becomes Soory (J/Y silent). It is pronounced as ਸੂਰਯ

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago*

That is just an accent difference, not a different word altogether.

We pronounce a lot of words in different words in Lehnda, but I will not call them different.

Do you have a video?

It does not seem like anything special or different. It is a stretch to call a pronunciation "the theth word"

:/

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Alternatively it can be derived directly from Sanskrit word Soorya (where again Y is silent)

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Who uses this?

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Everyone in Majha.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 6 points 1 year ago*

How can words be considered Theth?

Not an issue.

First of all while Punjabi has its own wonderful vocabulary, like every other language, it too needs its loans.

-

There are two kinds of loans. Direct borrowings (Modern additions) and Old words that had become assimilated a long time ago. There are also "Derived words".

What are derived words?

You see, the word **K'habray** is a pure Punjabi only word, and means "Who knows?", it is derived from the Arabic "K'habar" meaning "Knowledge/Awareness/News".

Can we rule this word out because of Arabic origin? Certainly not.

Similarlry **Hyaati** is not an addition or borrowing. It is derived from Hyaat, and functions so very Punjabically, and is used from the North most AJK Pothohatri, to Central Jhangochi regions like Chinot.. (Amazing)

Znaani is a Theth word derived from Persian "Zan"

Words that are a huge part of a combined Punjabi heritage, despite being loans, deserve the right to exist in a Theth vocabulary.

There is a word "**Heelaa**" for bandobast, effort, try, and a word "**Vaseelaa**" for means, source, etc. Both are Arabic derived. But should they be ruled out? No, as they are a part of rustic and elderly Punjabi talk, and make many awesome Punjabi phrases.

Such as "Kisay-heelay" (via some means), "koi heelaa chaa kar" (koi bandobast kar lo)

These Punjabi foriegn loans are common and colorful heritage.

RoNqaa'n, Ustaadiiyaa'n, Koshishaa'n, Mehntaa'n, Zimay-vaariiyaa'n, Baadshahiiyaa'n, Haaltaa'n, Sehtaa'n-Tabeeystaa'n, Zameenaa'n, Baaghee'n, Asmaanay, Zamaantaa'n, Maddataa'n (Help), etc

"**Shae**" is a common and pure word for "item". We even have "Shevaa'n/Sheyee'n". While Urdu/Hindi do not use this word. Formal Urdu very unnaturally uses it (it even uses the Arabic plural "Ashyaa", no Urdu speaker says this word in convo)

-

I believe the much larger Western Punjab and its many many dialects should have a very large say in Theth word decisions. Especially since Western Punjabi has very primitive grammatical features and is less affected by Urdu/Hindi. If anyone uses words naturally, it is us. I had a talk with Mr Singh and he said the reason Western Punjabis dont use "Samoohek Yattan" is because we do not use Theth Vocab. Saying that the more rustic and pure Western Punjabi is Untheth is very odd? I even told him that we rarely use Utraa/Utaarnaa/Utraa while Standard Punjabi prioritizes them...how are we untheth because we do not use this shared Hindi vocab? How is Samoohek Yattan better than "KaTHyaa'n da heelaa" ? Yattan may be Sanskrit, Heelaa may be Arabic, but Heelaa is more "Theth".

-

Sometimes Pure Punjabi words are used less compared to loans.

Visaah is common in Western Punjab but so is Yaqeen.

Whereas, only Eastern Punjab and Hindi uses Vishvaas.

We say NikheyRaa less than Farq

ApRaavNaa lesser than Pohnchaana

Ghalvaavnaa lesser than Bhijvaana

Haa'nh is used less than Dil

-

We must also understand the existence of Punjabi phrases where we do not need a Theth word.

We do not need a word for "depend", so the Urdu "Inkhisaar " and Hindi "Nirbhar" are not needed. On both sides these words are "odd".

When we can just say "Eh abbay-horaa'n **dey uttay** ae, jo oh aavnaa chaahnday hin ke koi-nhi"

"Eh mausam dey uttay ae"

Similarly for Thank you we say "Bhalla-hovay"

-

Some loans are just better:

For thank you, the proper Punjabi phrase is "Bhalla-hovay", In West Punjab this is used in a deep prayer meaning, casually or even ironically (this man irritatingly says [Mehrbaani--Bhalla hovey](#))

But we have words like Shurkiya, Mehrbaani and Dhanvaad

Shukriyaa is too formal and odd in casual Punjabi speech, it is more of an Urdu trait

Dhanvaad is never used by any Western Punjabi speaker, and as such sounds heavily unusual to us, many even call it an "Indian word"

Mehrbaani although means Kindness and is from Persian, it is a combined heritage.

Can be said as Baahli mehrbaani, Bahoo'n mehrbaani, BaRiiyaa'n MehrbaaNiiyaa'n, and as such feels more "Theth". No need to replace it.

-

If you are going to add words anyway, why not use Western Punjabi?

We have a word derived from Hirday that is "Haa'nh", we use it naturally, while Hirday we don't even know. Haa'nh means chest, heart, seena, the inner organ, etc Has many poetry, idiom and other usage. Sure, many dialects do not use it, but we can enjoy that such a word exists. Why add Vishvaas when we have Visaah? Why add Hirday instead of Haan'h?

(I can send video examples for both, they are rather common)

Verbs make it Theth!

BhanNaa for breaking

LaahNaa for Utaarnaa

Latthaa for Utraa

DharoohvNaa/DaroohNaa for GhaseeTNaa

NassNaa for Bhaagnaa

Bhyo'nvNaa for Bheegona

BhijjNaa for Bheegnaa

GhallNaa for Bheyjnaa

Depends on how the loans are used:

Dil is a common word for heart. And as such we have

Dilay diiyaa'n gallaa'n

Vay **dilaa** meryaa!

Diloo'n nikli gall

Used in three pure Punjabi ways...should we remove this loan? No, this IS "Theth".

-

What is Theth?

1. Punjabi with proper grammar
2. Punjabi with idioms and tons of phrases
3. Punjabi spoken by elders, seen in rustic folk language, and seen in classic folk art/music
4. Pure Verbs of Punjabi
5. Using common and obvious Punjabi words. Neendar for Neend, Ubaasi for Jamaai, etc
6. **A language that DOES exist**
7. Not a Punjabi where we collect words and make up a language "Theth" can never be invented.
This is my crux.

That is all I promote regarding Punjabi.

Loans are a part of Theth Punjabi, but which ones get to fit can be easily checked :)

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[\[-\]Alert-Golf2568](#) West Punjab | ਲਹਿੰਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ | 3 لہندا پنجاب points 1 year ago

Agree with everything you've said it's time that we give Lehnda Punjabi the prestige it deserves.

I will however use hirda as well as haa'nh because I think it's a nice word lol

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Your elders must know Haa'nh, as you are from Gujrat :)

Search Haa'nh in Iqbal's dictionary

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How would you use haa'nh in plural? So let's say this sentence:

Laapata putraan nu Apne Ghar wapas apraa ke ohne baRiyaan maa'nwaan de hirday thande keetay

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago*

Same as how we would say Graa'n (village), or Naa'n (name), or Saah (breath)

:D

-

Hirday ThanDay keetay has a veryyyyyyy common phrase in Jatki Punjabi

BaRiiyaa'n Maanvaa'n dey Haa'nhh Thaaray!! :)

Haa'nh Thaaranaa

By dad said "Kaheaaa'n peyvaa'n (dads) nu milday Haa'nh SaaRoo puttar, tey kaheaaa'n dey honday Haa'nh Thaaroo"

-

Jatki:

KhRee'ya baalaa'n nu gharee'n apRaa ke, baRiiyaaa'n maavaa'n dey haa'nh-Thaare'us

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[\[-\]Alert-Golf2568](#) West Punjab | ਲਹਿੰਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ | 1 | point 1 year ago

I thought so it would be haanhwaan but then i hesitated for some reason maybe it's because Ive never used this word before. But my elders definitely would have.

That's so cool, I think use haa'nh thaarna as well now. What's thaare'us? When does the us get added to the end?

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What's thaare'us? When does the us get added to the end?

This is Western Punjabi, used in Pothohari as well alongwith the Jatki Punjabi dialects

Saraiki also uses it

-

Keetosay (Asee'n keeta)

Keetim (Mein keeta)

Keetus (Us keetaa/Ohne keetaa)

Keeto'ee (Tu'n keetaa)

Keeta-nhey (Tusaa'n keetaa)

Keetaa-nay (Unhaa'n keetaa)

-

Gall taa'n suN...bhiraa nisay? (are we not brothers?)

Eh kay kamm keeta nay vay? (What have they done?)

Bhiraa sadeynda pya ae tera, aakhyus kamm ae koi

Kay naa'n us? (ohda)

Kay aakhyus? (ohne)

-

"us" is like "soo" in Pure Western Majhi

"nhay" is like "jay"

and "ney" is the same

-

Pothohari Drama: Aakhyus https://youtu.be/-hEFJt1Xems?si=8SIMJInzcO4_Ns_C&t=478

Jhang Punjabi Youtuber: Bhiraa-nisay? <https://youtu.be/zLj136Fqj2M?si=omTdDEJqZEJeC-b4&t=85>

Sargodha Punjabi Youtuber: RehNus ke VeyNus??? <https://youtu.be/BNySSXRzcYs?si=Q26hTsLZBaFJ9l3f&t=36>

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[\[-\]yootosAbroad](#) | ਪਰਦੇਸ਼ | 1 پرديس point 1 year ago

hi im currently learning to speak punjabi more fluently, and these suffixes like -so, -jay, -ee etc. I'm not so sure about their use.. Could you explain when someone would use them in conversation?

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Depends on your dialect. Do you use them?

Jay = Tusee'n

Soo = Oh

Ney = Unhaan/Oh

Ee = Tuun

Kay naa'n soo? (ohda)

Kii aakhyaa soo? (ohney)

Eh taa'nn vaahva changga kamm keeta soo (ohney)

-

Kay naa'n jay? (tuhaada)

Kii aakhyaa jay? (tusaa'n)

Eh taa'nn vaahva changga kamm keeta jay (tusaa'n)

-

Kay naa'n ne? (unhaan da)

Kii aakhyaa ne? (unhaan)

Eh taa'nn vaahva changga kamm keeta ne (unhaan)

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[\[-\]yootos](#)Abroad | ਪਰਦੇਸ਼ | 2 پرديس points 1 year ago

Ah, this is way more clear, thank u

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"Jay, soo, ne, ee" are for you, he/she and they, is there any for mai'n or asii'n?

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago

I thought so it would be haanhwaan

Eh do graa'n ne

Meray mukksday saah

Saaray naa'n kaTTHay kar

Saaray haa'nh

-

Inhaa'n graahvaa'n da dassda aan

Meryaa'n saahvaa'n di so'nh

Inhaa'n naavaa'n da kujh matlab ae

Lokaa'n dyaa'n haanhvaa'n vich

-

Male plurals are different in Absolute and Instrumental case.

Think of Bhiraa and Bhiraavaa'n both being plural (Aa gaye meray bhiraa)

But BheNaa'n being the only plural

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Listen to this usage of Haa'nh Thaarnaa https://youtu.be/FYhxlTjrsFc?si=uTw2v1_FyN-EJd3C&t=308

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[\[-\]matterhorn276](#) 2 points 1 year ago

I would second you. I grew up in an environment of Punjabi poets and writers and this is what I've seen. In my opinion, the real issue Punjabi faces is the inclusion of English words, which happened pretty recently. While we do have our own words for something, people prefer to use more English words.

I appreciate your effort, it's huge.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Punjabi poets....you must be from Western Punjab then.

(opening your profile)

Oh I have met you before.

Yes English does seem to be an issue, not a big one imo.

Thanks for appreciating my efforts.

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Well said! Derived words are a component that I forgot to mention about. Derived words, those that are unique to Punjabi, certainly deserve a spot as Theth. I mean, you cannot tell me that the word K'haure is not the most Punjabi sounding word you haven't heard haha.

I believe the much larger Western Punjab and its many many dialects should have a very large say in Theth word decisions.

We must be careful here. I pointed out in my post the need for dialect-specific and dialect-neutral theth words. I agree with your statement, as long as we confine it to dialects. Imposing the "thethness" of a dialect on others is something we should avoid. Now let me make myself clear. It just so happens that Western Punjabi, in specific the dialects colloquially referred to as "Lehndi Punjabi",

do have more "theth" words that are common across dialects. I just want to be careful as we are not imposing words across dialects. I think as Punjabi's we have had enough of language imposition. Be it from Urdu or from Hindi.

Sometimes Pure Punjabi words are used less compared to loans.

Visaah is common in Western Punjab but so is Yaqeen.

Whereas, only Eastern Punjab and Hindi uses Vishvaas.

We say NikheyRaa less than Farq

ApRaavNaa lesser than Pohnchaana

Ghalvaavnaa lesser than Bhijvaana

Haa'nh is used less than Dil

Great point here as well. We must ask ourselves if this reduction in the usage of "pure" words was natural or artificial. From what I can gather from my experiences, and my families experiences, there is a great deal of difference between the vocabulary that was used at home and the one that was taught. This led to a shift in the word usage. I can only say this about the Indian side from my family. I do not know how the situation is on the Pakistani side or in other families.

Also, my family uses GhalvaauNa a lot too, as much as BhijvaauNa :) And along with vishvaas, we also use yaqeen, as you pointed out, and itbaar.

We must also understand the existence of Punjabi phrases where we do not need a Theth word.

I must respectfully disagree with you on this point. We should strive to invent/coin vocabulary for words that do not exist natively in the language. You may counter by saying why? What is the problem with phrases? After all, we have perfectly good way to express this idea. This is true. Yet, we must factor in one crucial aspect; one that must be considered if we want theth Punjabi, or even just Punjabi, to be successful: Formality. The phrases that you have listed to not have the required formality to be accepted in academic situations. This is the reason why, for the depend example you have given, we have loan words for it. From Persian we have munahssar and from Sanskrit aadhaarit. Would it not be better if we could coin new Punjabi vocabulary that still retains the "theth" element of the language? To have that vocabulary achieve the same level of formality that other language's formality has? I have been told that Punjabi is spoken just through muhavare, leading to a reason why it is not taken as seriously as other languages in academic centers. I know this sentiment is shared across borders. We should strive to end it.

Some loans are just better

100% agreed.

If you are going to add words anyway, why not use Western Punjabi?

I find many words that are exclusive to Lehndi Punjabi to be beautiful. They are certainly Theth words. I do not wish to impose a dialect over others. We must be careful here. We can add western Punjabi words. I, for one, would love to see that happen. But we must not be discriminatory. We must also accept the reverse as well, and we should never impose a dialect over another. I know, I know, you never said we should. I am sure you do not wish for a dialect to dominate the others. We should, nevertheless, remain careful and vigilant.

Verbs make it Theth! 100% agreed. For some of your words, for nassNaa, we can also add BhajjNa. This is the preferred way to say "to run" in Eastern dialects. My family says GhaReesNa for GhaseeTNaa. I wonder if that is Theth?

What is Theth?

Punjabi with proper grammar

Punjabi with idioms and tons of phrases

Punjabi spoken by elders, seen in rustic folk language, and seen in classic folk art/music

Pure Verbs of Punjabi

Using common and obvious Punjabi words. Neendar for Neend, Ubaasi for Jamaai, etc

A language that DOES exist

Not a Punjabi where we collect words and make up a language "Theth" can never be invented. This is my crux.

That is all I promote regarding Punjabi.

Loans are a part of Theth Punjabi, but which ones get to fit can be easily checked :)

Yes to all of the above. Great writeup!

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

All dialect words can be shuffled. We use many Eastern words in our classic songs as well :)

Like "Kaahnu" is a pure word, but it is seldom spoken in Jatki dialects, yet we sing it.

Surinder Kaur used many Lehnda words. (Kareyndaa)

No dialect should dominate, indeed :)

We also say GhalvaavNaa at home hahaha

GhaReesNaa is pure Majhi. DhroovNaa is pure Jatki, DaroohNaa is pure Malvai.

-

As for my point regarding Punjabi phrases. I do wonder if we need a word for "depend" :) - Punjabi is a very idiomatic language. Formality isn't very objective...is it? :o

I discuss medical science with my father who is a doctor himself, and we use a lot of Punjabi. "HuN kidney dii compensation jeDii vii hovay eh taa'n heart failure dey uttay ae" (Is this not right enough?)

I also wonder if Punjabi can be formally assimilated in a Theth form at all.

Because to me Theth is rustic and "rough".

(When I speak Punjabi in college, my fellows love my accent. They love how I say "Heyeekk" (Hikk=One) lol)

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Yes, yes, yes! I am all in favor for different dialects to share words! I would love if all of Punjab got to have that. A cultural exchange if you will.

Surinder Kaur did use many lehnda words. I am a big fan of hers, and I love those words! Just take a listen to the chorus of "Chan Kithe Guzari Ayeerat". Beautiful sounding western Punjabi words.

No dialect should dominate, indeed :)

I am glad we agree :)

We also say GhalvaavNaa at home hahaha

Yeah this is definitely a word that gets used more often. What's interesting is that we say BhejNa more at home. For the causative, however, we say GhalvaauNa haha.

GhaReesNaa is pure Majhi. DhroovNaa is pure Jatki, DaroohNaa is pure Malvai.

My dialect must truly be a mix because we say words that are supposedly exclusive to just Majhi, Doabi, and Malwai Punjabi.

As for my point regarding Punjabi phrases. I do wonder if we need a word for "depend" :) - Punjabi is a very idiomatic language. Formality isn't very objective...is it? :o

You are right in that formality is not objective. Yet it is the difference that makes languages rise in areas such as academia. Trust me, I hate formality. I find it to be a classist and downright stupid way to classify people as intelligent or not. Despite this, it still doesn't change the fact that formality is still needed. And I would prefer formal words to be built from Punjabi, not complicated loan words from Sanskrit or new loans from Persian/Arabic.

Your point about medical science is valid. It highlights a great problem with our "theth" view. We have forgotten of the quick domination of English loan words. Even the imposing languages of Urdu and Hindi are falling victim to English. Waqt, Sama, and Vela has become time (or taim as some Punjabi's pronounce it).

The concept of "rough" and rustic is what I would consider a positive stereotype. Yes, it is nice to have claim to a language that sounds so rough. But we must ask ourselves, are we not tired of the stereotype of Punjabi being an uncivilized language? I have heard in Pakistan, Punjabi was considered a "Jaahil" language that was not to be spoken by the elite. As far as I know, it is only recently, due to the success of local Punjabi movements, as well as singers from Charhda Punjab gaining mass popularity, that Punjabi has started to become in fashion (or atleast trending towards that way). Please correct me if I am wrong in any of this. I think we need to get rid of this stereotype, and have Punjabi be considered as a proper language, which me, you, and everyone here already knows it is :)

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

I think you are right. Formal Punjabi can use native constructs or loans. Formal languages are all awkward anyway lol XD

-

Yes, especially the Jatki/Jhangochi/Shahpuri Punjabi was called "Jaangli Punjabi", while the modern Majhi type dialects were considered decent, soon, even those were replaced with Urdu.

Punjabic culture is still huge in Punjabi, otherwise I would not be here talking to you :)

But yes, stereotypes exist and are sad.

"Veylay" is certainly an example of an Ultra-Theth word hahaha, it is used to divide times of the day, used as Sveylay-Kveylay, Veylay naal, Os veylay, Oh veylay, Kamm da veylaa, etc

Waqt and Samein should never dominate this sweet word.

Eastern Punjabis are MUCH more motivated to protect Punjabi, and as such deserve appreciation.

-

Tbh sometimes "Hisaab naal" (Hisaaba naal in most Jatki, Hisaabay naal in Northern dialects) - can mean "depends". But eh not much.

But I do love how "Hisaab-naal" is the Theth way to say Mutaabik (awkward for Easterners) and Anusaar (Awkward for us)

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Using native constructs or "loans" is the way to go for sure!

It is such a shame that a dialect can be considered "jaangli". All dialects are beautiful and must be cherished as such. We cannot say one is better than the other.

I am glad the culture is still going strong :)

VeLa is used everywhere in Punjab. Unfortunately, the word veLa has been dominated in Eastern Punjabi first by sama'n and now by taim (time).

Eastern Punjabis are MUCH more motivated to protect Punjabi, and as such deserve appreciation.

I have seen great Punjabi movements in Pakistan too! I think you guys don't get enough credit for doing what you can to fix the situation. Everyday, the support for Punjabi grows which is amazing. Little by little, it will reach a breaking point.

Tbh sometimes "Hisaab naal" (Hisaaba naal in most Jatki, Hisaabay naal in Northern dialects) - can mean "depends". But eh not much.

Hmmm. I have never heard it to be meant like that. Dialectical variance I suppose. We also say hisaab as in saab :) But confusingly, only when we says verbs such as saab lauNa or before a postposition. For just the noun, like if you were referencing math class, my family says hisaab, the full pronunciation.

But I do love how "Hisaab-naal" is the Theth way to say Mutaabik (awkward for Easterners) and Anusaar (Awkward for us)

Mutaabik is used much more than anusaar in casual talk for eastern Punjabi's. You would be surprised how different the everyday language here is compared to the formal Punjabi they teach in schools and showcase in news/media. Now that I think about it, mutaabik is also used quite a bit in news too!

Of course saying, "mere saab naal" is much better than saying "mere mutaabik" which is much, much better than saying "mere anusaar" :)

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Mutaabik is used much more than anusaar in casual talk for eastern Punjabi's. You would be surprised how different the everyday language here is compared to the formal Punjabi they teach in schools and showcase in news/media. Now that I think about it, mutaabik is also used quite a bit in news too!

Oh nice, I do think Mutaabik is a better word where "Hisaab naal" cannot work that well. Anusaar, I didn't even know existed until a few months earlier :D

Mutaabik is Arabic btw

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Mutaabiq is the better word compared to anusaar, but I like the "saab naal" of Punjabi a lot more :)

Sidenote: Do Punjabi's on the Pakistani side pronounce the 'q' sound? I know it is pronounced in Urdu, but I have never heard of a Pakistani Punjabi pronounce this sound like that. They always make it a 'k' sound.

Edit: Here's the first link I found showcasing the word mutaabiq

<https://www.bbc.com/punjabi/articles/czq2xew48wvo>

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago

nah we don't.

That's an Arabic letter, even Urdu speakers don't do it like 90% the time lol.

It's like English girls trying to say Croissant.

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Haha I figured it wasn't used as I have never heard it from a Punjabi. I have heard Pakistani friends complain that Urdu sounds are starting to become replaced by the indic ones due to Hindi dramas taking over Pakistan (K'h -> kh and G'h -> G). I have no idea if this is true or not.

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[\[-\]\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 1 year ago

That's an Arabic letter, even Urdu speakers don't do it like 90% the time lol.

It's wrong in Urdū unless we are talking about the Panjābī dialect.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 3 points 1 year ago

Hey man my posts won't mean anything if people like you didn't take any interest! :)

More to come!

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

I don't shy from saying that the more Eastern Punjabi gets, the more it adopts an Urdu-Hindi touch, and Standard Punjabi especially can even be mistaken for a kind of Hindi at times.

The Punjabi spoken in Khushab and Chakwal areas, here in Jhang, Sahiwal and Khanewal and Sargodha and Mandi Bahudin, or the purest Pothohari of Gujjer Khan, Mirpur, Jhelum are very different languages altogether.

-

Keetaa veyndaa pya ae / Keetaa jaanda pya ae / Keetaa julNaa pya ae

Keetaa jaa riha ae

-

Khaadhaa-peetaa kar kujh

Khaayaa-peeyaa kar kujh

-

Kay likhyaa hyi? Methoo'n kaai-hikk shae vi nhi pyi paRHeendi

Kii likhya ae tuu'n? Metho'n koi ikk cheek vi nhi paRhi jaa rhi

-

Pehlo'n tusee'n ethay aaso, vatt saara kamm hosi

Pehlaa'n tusee'n ethay aaogay, phir saara kamm hovegaa

-

Hikk jaNyaa aakhyaa sii

Ikk banday ne kihaa sii

-

Chaviiyaa'n-Panjiiyaa'n saalaa'n dii umrey vich gya haa oh ethoo'n

Chobiiyaa'n-Pacheeyaa'n saalaa'n dii umer vich gya sii oh etho'm

-

Here in the following comments I translated this sentence:

"Ohney baRiiyaa'n maavaa'n dey hirday ThanDay keetay"

In Jatki dialects of Punjabi we would say

"BaRiiyaa'n maavaa'n dey haa'nhh Thaarey-us"

Haa'nh Thaarnaa is a proper idiom, you can even find in Iqbal :)

And the opposite is Haa'nhh SaaRnaa

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[\[-\]](#)[deleted] 1 point 1 year ago

You seem to have this opinion because you haven't read or heard the Eastern Punjabi vocabulary fully yet. It's so sad that Eastern Punjabi speakers out of ignorance are accepting this Hindi/Urdu rhetoric, knowing nothing about their own language. Tell me, which Hindi Urdu loans are used in Eastern Punjabi according to you?

If you are sure about it, start a thread here, and let's have some arguments so you can learn more about your own dialects and vocabulary.

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[\[-\]](#)[False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago*

Let's look at pure Jatki Punjabi verses Eastern Punjabi.

Kay pya aakhya veynda ae?

Kii kiha/aakhya jaa riha ae

Kujh khaadhaa peeta kar

Kujh khaayaa peeyaa kar

Oh chaa ke aandi pyi hosi

Oh lae ke aa rahi hovegi

Kaaii hekk shae vii nhi pyi paRHeendi

Koi ikk cheej vi.nhi pahi jaa rhi

Oh kado'n lahsi?

Oh kado'n utrega?

Veylay naal suttaa kar

Samei'n tey sauyaa kar

Bahoo'n ghaTT

Boht ghaTT

Dheyr na runnaa kar

Innaa na royaa kar

HovNa injay chaaheeda jo saanu saadiyaa'n zmeenaa'n moR dittiyyaa'n vanjan

HoNa iddaa ee chaaheda ke saanu saadiiyaa'n zameenaa moR dittiyyaa'n jaan

Asee'n unhaa'n nu ditti rakheeye?

Asee'n unhaa'n nu deyi rakheeye?

Oh kay keeti jaanda ae

Oh kii kari jaanda ae

Menu dey chaa / chhaDD

Menu dey dey

Varteenda pya ae

Vartya jaa riha ae

Oh tenu lyaa ke dittiyyaa'n karsi

Oh tenu lyaa ke dya karega

Ajj kujh baahroo'n na khaadhee peetii aaveeye?

Ajj kujh baahron na khaa pee aaeeeye?

Kay naa'us?

Kii naa ae ohda?

Bhiraan nisay?

Asee'n bhraa nhi aan?

Nimoo keetaa

Mein nhi keetaa

Kay aakhus?

Kii kyaa ohne?

Chal shaabaa vatt jaNaa baN

Chal phir bandaa baN

MuR kaday karsaae'n gall

Phir kadi karaangay gall

Eastern Punjabi counting:

Ikk Do Trae

Dass Gyaaraa'n

Teii Chobi Pachee Chhabi

Teeh

Western Counting:

Hikk Do Trae

Daah Yaaraa'n

Treyi Chavi Panji Chhavi

Treeh

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[\[-\]](#)[deleted] 1 point 1 year ago

These are dialectal variations, and nothing to do with punjabi Hindi brother, Punjabi originated from Prakrit way earlier than Hindi. All these forms are pure Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu accepted these forms later on..

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago*

Judging by that logic, everything Urdu/Hindi has should be considered pure Punjabi as well. :)

Which came first does not matter. Where they stand today is the only relevant thing.

These are not small dialectical variations. The majority of Western Punjab uses this language.

There are even more archaisms I have yet to mention.

Many times I have noticed when I tell Eastern Punjabis about a word we use they will say "My grandfather used to use it".

A good example is the very common word "Halaa" we use, while Eastern Punjabis say "Achhaa" for "okay".

When you go into the districts of Jhang, Khushab, Sargodha, Chakwal, etc you see a Punjabi language that is completely different in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

Then there is Standard Eastern Punjabi which feels like a very Hindi-fied version of that language we speak in the majority of Western Punjab.

Western Punjab has been a cultural hub for classical writings, poetry and song. I am just here to promote the other much larger yet less cared for, half of our culture and language.

My concern is, when we have a common Theth word for everything, have tons of unique and classical features, why do some say we don't speak Theth just because we do not use Eastern Punjabs shared Hindi vocabulary? I'd say many Arabic Persian derived words are much more Theth than Native ones. (Znaani > Mahila, Khabray > Najaanay, Heelaa > Yattan) - If 120 million Western Punjabis do not use a word and only Eastern Punjabi and Hindi uses it, should it be called Theth? Usually not imo.

You may not agree with everything I say. :)

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No, not all the things are similar in Punjabi and Hindi/Urdu. Hindi has same roots as that of Punjabi, so some things are similar, vocabulary is similar, even lots of Persian words are Theth in Hindi now.

Eastern Punjabi has its own standard pure form, except some new loans from Hindi and Urdu, those words whose usage is limited to formal texts, not much in colloquial Punjabi.

Eastern Punjabis who aren't aware of the theth Punjabi words in Eastern Punjab are mostly those who don't have much exposure to rural Punjabi life. Most of the Eastern Punjabis here are from the cities, so they often hear those words from their grandparents which are common in rural Punjab here.

And this problem is same in both sides of border, instead of arguing about the words used in different dialects, we should accept words from both sides with a consensus so we can tell youth about theth Punjabi. If we keep arguing about a word being theth or not, we will miss the point totally.

At least have an agreement, accept those words as Punjabi which are new or unfamiliar to other Punjabi dialects on either side of the border, so we can document these words for future generations mentioning the regions where they are colloquial and where they are not used at all.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago*

I am not going accept totally obvious Hindi words as Punjabi that 120 million Western Punjabis have never heard of.

I will not accept any Standardized form of Punjabi that exists.

I am not arguing, I am defending my language from being called untheth. I wil also not want the majority of W-Punjab to be sidelined as "dialectical" as it always has been.

Dialectical Theth words are very welcome :)

In response to your other point:

Our Theth future tense, and other many such grammatical features that are different from Eastern Punjabi and Hindi, did not come from Sindhi or other Pakistani language. So please do not think that.

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[\[-\]\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Nobody is calling western Punjabi vocabulary as un-theth, even lots of words from Western dialects that were never used in Eastern dialects, we accept those words as Punjabi words.(imagine if we start calling those dialects as different languages. I often have arguments with those who don't consider Saraiki as Punjabi for me it's Punjabi, even though I don't understand most of its vocabulary)

If we from Eastern Punjab are accepting those western words as Punjabi which are never used in any of the Eastern dialects, what is the problem is western side that they don't accept the words used in Eastern side!!

No more arguments bro, thank you..

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Relax.

We already accept your dialectical words. Pakistani Punjab is full of Indian Punjabi immigrants.

We just can't say the same for the Hindi words like Samoochik Yattan.

You seem to forget we have millions of Malvais and Doabis and we share borders with Majha region.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Saraiki is almost the same language as the most spoken Jhangochi/Shahpuri/Dhanni Punjabi.

Just it can have many Sindhi words at times.

But I'd suggest you don't have arguments with them, as you are not well versed in Saraiki and Western Punjabi as a whole.

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"Main karunga" is totally Punjabi, if you compare it with similar words of western dialects like 'main karsaan', it's just difference in dialect, and their side word structures are influenced by other languages spoken there.

'Karanga, Karunga' are developed in Punjabi from Prakrit, and Hindi too adopted these auxiliaries. Logic is, Punjabi is older than Hindi, you can say 'Karunga, Karanga' are pure Punjabi words, and later on Hindi accepted these same words from Prakrit. This is the case with most of the other words that seem Hindi to you, ignoring the fact that Punjabi is older than Hindi, developed way earlier from Prakrit, to make its vocabulary.

In western dialects the variations are due to influence of Saraiki, Sindhi, Balochi etc., And I have no issue with their dialects. But plz at least read history and origin of your own language.

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[\[-\]](#)[False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

No language influenced Pakistani Punjabi tenses my friend hahaha.

Hosi, Hosaa'n, Karso are not dialectal differences. These are cross dialectal and used by most Punjabis, a majority I'd say.

It's very odd that you think Western Punjabi proper only differs due to Sindhi Balochi etc...?

The only debate is that Western Punjabi is a totally separate and rich language, while Standard Punjabi barely scratches its surface.

Even the common continuous tense and common counting in Eastern Punjab isn't like Western Punjabi.

And we also maintain Past Tenses (see my post on "Keetaa Kar", it is detailed with videos)

So this can't be a Sindhi thing.

West: Kujh khaadha peeta kar seht baNsi

East: Kujh khaaya peeya kar seht baNegi

Sindhi does not have this future tense.

Our differences are due to our own Punjabi-proper.

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[\[-\]](#)[deleted] 1 point 1 year ago

You seem to have lots of issues with Eastern Punjabi brother, maybe due to ignorance or some other reasons. But it's not good to keep arguing on the same thing with same arguments. You consider your dialects pure, I have no problem with it.

I consider my Eastern dialects pure and theth, that's it. Thanks brother..

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[\[-\]](#)[False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

I am only addressing your misinformation.

Your response to why Eastern Punjabi is losing such words and features is simply "Punjabi came first, Hindi later"

I am protecting my language from the biases like, Persian-Arabic = Untheth, "They are influenced by Sindhi", etc

My argument comes back to this, why is Utraa/Utrna/Utaarna more prioritized in Standard Punjabi?
Instead of the much more common and Punjabi Latthaa/Lehnaa/Laahnaa?

In all of Western Punjab we use "Pya" in many different ways

Kay paye kareynde o?

Kii honda ae pya?

While Standard Punjabi uses "Riha/Rahay/Rahi"

And of course the common Western Future tense used by Sufis and also in the Gurbani I can think.

I am not against Standard Eastern Punjabi but I am sure you can understand why we feel it doesn't do justice to our language. I mean Google translate literally gives "Samein te" and not "Veylay naal" and "Nahaaya" for "Nahaata"..why?

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[–][deleted] 1 point 1 year ago

I use Nahaata and nahaaya both, I don't use the word 'smaa' mostly in everyday conversations, vela is good, though highly colloquial is English loan 'TIME' 'Time naal aa jayi'.. which is the problem.

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[–][zaaniyaar2](#) 1 point 1 year ago

For bhannaN/بھنّ do you know how widespread/which dialects use it? I've found it in the Salah ud Din dictionary and the dic.learnpunjabi one and ijunoon Punjabi, but I've never heard it.

Also, what would be the equivalent for تُتّا/TuTna? I've come across بھجّ/bhajjaN but I've only heard it in the context of 'to run', have you heard it before and is it widespread?

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago*

Friend, BhannNaa is not even an unusual or rare word.

Every dialect of Western Punjabi uses it, I might even say its a word that's heard of daily in my family. It is very very common.

Majhi's also say "Kyo'n boohaa pahnaN Dyaa vaa???"

Strictly, speaking, if you are not saying BhannNaa then it isn't Theth Punjabi for any dialect.

-

BhajjNaa is also extremely common in Western Punjab.

In Jatki we say "Bhann-SaTT-iss, kaai kamm di shae koi na"

Here is an example of Attock Punjabi <https://youtu.be/ODNJzwsDRWg?si=HXy5KsCE7LoCn2z4&t=120>

Here is an example of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan https://youtu.be/zY2GYN5YBjg?si=NCOZw_2apOrAjS6Q&t=167

BhajjNaa is also used as a noun for breakage or damage

"TuTT-Bhajj" or "truTT-Bhajj" in Western Punjabi

تُرٹ بھج / تُٹ بھج

Similarly Bhann-TroR karni, means to dissect an issue, to break it apart

بھن تروڑ / بھن توڑ

Yes for breaking, all Western Punjabi dialects also use TruTTNaa it is very common

Here this Sargodha Punjabi poet says "Saangay truTTaN da dard zaroor honda ae"

<https://www.tiktok.com/@smilermunda02/video/7149188356788833562>

(Saangaa means your connection, taaluqaat, sanggat means your company or friendship, sanggi means your friend, sangatii means companion, Theth Jatki/Shahpuri Punjabi words, also used in Pothohari and Hindko)

Pothohari also uses troR and truTT

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[\[-\]pranavpande01](#) 1 point 1 year ago

One such word that comes to my mind is "ghina", meaning dilaana.

Main koo mithai ghina deyo : mujhko mithai dilaa do.

I have heard this word in Saraiki. Lmk if it's boundaries extend beyond.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago*

No.

Ghinaa means "Lyaa" (bring)

Ghin means "Lae"

Ghidaa means "Lyaa" (took)

It is commonly used in **Pothohari dialects of Punjabi**

The Dhanni/Chakwali Punjabi

Punjabi of Attock

Hindko

and yes in Saraiki

My family uses this word. (Daah to'n ghin-te veehaa'n taaee'n / Das sey lekar bees tak/Chassaa'n ghaTT ghidiiyaa'n kar, Asaa'n aastay vi ghin aavee'n)

Here is a post I made on this with video examples:

https://www.reddit.com/r/ThethPunjabi/comments/185qc07/ghinnaa_the_western_punjabi_word_for_takinglaina/

Go to Pothohari or Jhangvi wikipedia page, I have added detail about this word.

GhinNaa is a very common Western Punjabi, fully synonymous with "LeNaa" also used in Western Punjab (LavNaa in Jhangochi)

You can Western Punjab even has a good word alongwith "LeNaa"

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

One such word that comes to my mind is

Brother there are many. :)

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[\[-\]IllCardiologist3690](#)East Punjab | ਦਰੁਦਾ ਧੰਜਾਬ | 1 | چڑھدا پنجاب point 1 year ago

For zindagi - Jindiye / Jind means life

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[\[-\]zaaniyaar2](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Isn't the theth word for sun 'sijh/سجھ' in some dialects?

Also din/دین/day is dihaRa/دہارا

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Sijjh is a Sindhi word. Only Saraiki uses it.

Din is Dey'nhh and DihaaRaa both in Western Punjabi.

I have video examples for both.

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[\[-\]zaaniyaar2](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Wait so if Sooraj is a 'loan word' then what was the original Eastern Punjabi word for sun

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

It was always Sooraj.....

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[\[-\]Alert-Golf2568](#) West Punjab | ਲਹਿੰਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ | 1 | لہندا پنجاب point 1 year ago

Great write up, I'll read it properly later but I had one point to make...

I don't necessarily think z, gh, kh, and sh are foreign letters. I say this cos more rural dialects will pronounce words like لکھنا ਲਿਖਣਾ as لکھنا ਲਿਖਣਾ Same with the word hega. I've heard people with heavy accents pronounce it like hegha.

Also Pakistani Punjabis have no problem pronouncing Z and this might be due to influence from shahmukhi but I think even in the rural areas where there is little education people don't replace the z with a j, so I don't think Z is a non theth letter in that regard.

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 2 points 1 year ago

I don't necessarily think z, gh, kh, and sh are foreign letters. I say this cos more rural dialects will pronounce words like **ਲਿਖਣਾ** **ਲਖਣਾ** as **ਲਖਣਾ** **ਲਖਣਾ** Same with the word hega. I've heard people with heavy accents pronounce it like hegha.

This is mostly an Indian side thing.

Punjabi Western literature maintains these letters.

Now, we do sometimes say K'hair and Khair and Majhis here say Hzaar as Hyaar.

So it's not unheard of, but nor is this any more Theth.

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[\[-\]Alert-Golf2568](#) West Punjab | ਲਹਿੰਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ | 2 points 1 year ago

When I was learning Gurmukhi the teacher said that these four letters are foreign and I was wondering how he defined foreign given that most rural people pronounce these letters on a daily basis. Now **ق ح ع** are definitely foreign letters which we do not pronounce because these sounds are not natural to Punjabi. But **خ غ ز ش** are easily Punjabi sounds and like you said west Punjabis don't consider them foreign to the language.

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[\[-\]guntas68\[S\]](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Z, G'h, K'h, and sh are foreign sounds to native Punjabi ears, at least they were. We know that these sounds were not pronounced early in Punjabi's inception. I have the source listed in my post, but according to it, the pronunciation of these sounds did not occur until the British rule in India. Before then, Punjabi's took these foreign words and adapted them to their own tongue.

We have evidence of this too in the form of rural Punjabi's/elders. In the Pakistan side, I have heard of some elders who still do not pronounce Z's as Z's, instead opting to pronounce it as a J.

Even in our words, this has still survived. Raise your hand if you have an elder that says des for desh. That says seesaa for sheeshaa. That says saRak for shaRak (Ok this one is purely dialectical but you get the point). Some of these are, of course, dialectical, but my point still remains. These sounds were not native to Punjabi in its earlier years.

I say this cos more rural dialects will pronounce words like لکھنا ਲਿਖਣਾ as لکنا ਲਿਖਣਾ

I am glad you brought this up. This is a phenomenon known as "Hypercorrection" [1]. I have linked the wikipedia article down below. Feel free to go through it. This is when, in order to accommodate a new word, we often overcorrect the pronunciation of the word, leading to an incorrect pronunciation in order for it sound more standard [1]. This happens **all** the time on the Eastern side. The word rivaaj is often pronounced as rivaaz. Ijaazat can *sometimes* be heard as izaazat. This is usually a key indicator that a sound is foreign to a language.

I am not against these sounds. Infact, I use all of them in my daily speech (even k'h and g'h) as I love the way they sound :) This is purely a hypothetical, but if we do talk about thethness in terms of pronunciation, then this would certainly be a contending feature. The truth is, however, that pronunciation really isn't that important. We care about how we pronounce it now. Not how it was pronounced back then.

A word's thethness is not defined by its pronunciation.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypercorrection> [1]

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[\[-\]Zanniil](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Good post bro! Mai'n vi enj ee sochda wa :)

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[\[-\]False-Manager39](#) 1 point 1 year ago

Hi preet

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[\[-\]Zanniil](#) 2 points 1 year ago

Supp broo hruu??

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[\[-\]RatioSome3015](#)Abroad | ਪਰਦੇਸ਼ | 1 پرديس point 1 year ago*

My personal thinking is that not all languages are same or equal. For example Tamil tried and mostly succeeded in many ways to reduce Sanskrit impact on it, because they had native equivalents for most loanwords.

Punjabi just doesn't have its own full vocabulary(could be because it was never a language of science, administration or Government).

Anyways, that means that we cannot remove Sanskrit, Persian/Arabic loanwords from Punjabi like Tamil did.

So, in my personal view the Theth Punjabi words could be ones from few generations ago which are losing significance, and also the loanwords which have been significantly changed/morphed by Punjabi/Native sound rules to almost make a new sound.

And we can include English loanwords too, for example, in many songs I started hearing a word called 'Lamb/Lambh' and couldn't make out its meaning, and later found out it's means the Car Lamborghini.

So, perhaps 100 years from now , Lamb will be a Theth Punjabi word, if it is retained and used. (Just like Bambukat is an accepted Punjabi word coming from English Bamboo-Cart).